

Unhappy Pocahontas

Newly Discovered Facts About the Indian Princess Whose Blood Flows in the Veins of President Wilson's Bride-Elect

THE announcement that Mrs. Norman Galt, who is to become the wife of President Wilson, is a descendant of Pocahontas lends peculiar interest at this time to newly discovered facts concerning that unhappy Indian princess.

Every native American treasures memories of school days brightened by the Fourth Reader romance of brave Captain John Smith and the lovely and heroic daughter of Chief Powhatan. How the gallant English officer of a Virginia regiment was praised and honored for his soldierly qualities by the great chief, yet was tried and condemned to death at a council of braves for the good of the confederated tribes; how he calmly bowed his head to receive the blow from the savage executioner's club that was to dash out his brains; and how the tender and loving Pocahontas rushed from her father's side and laid her own head upon that of the condemned officer barely in time to stay the fatal stroke and save Captain Smith's life—this, in history and in legend, is one of our country's proudest historical possessions.

In spite of doubt expressed by some historians that Pocahontas actually saved the life of Captain Smith in the manner described in the legend, there is no doubt at all that she was the loveliest, tenderest, most intelligent and greatest of all native American Indian princesses. Her father, the great Powhatan, lives in the history of Colonial times as the ablest and most noble of all the celebrated rulers of confederated Indian tribes. His personal demeanor, his customs and his court were, in fact, little short of regal. All these attributes his favorite daughter, Pocahontas, inherited and adorned with her beauty and her fine personality.

Until she met, and loved, Captain John Smith, her prospects were those of a princess royal, beloved by a whole nation—barbarous, but still a great and powerful nation. In her own natural right no royal princess ever had better prospects of a useful and happy life.

But the mingling of the white and the colored races has always proved disastrous to the latter. The very superiority of Pocahontas caused her aspirations in that direction to bring the greater and swifter misfortune upon her. The brave and gallant soldier, whom she loved and saved did not love her. He treated her with the utmost consideration; but went away to England and forgot her.

Then came the second misfortune of this unhappy princess. Another gallant English officer in that same Virginia regiment fell deeply in love with her. She could not love him as she had loved the other. But the spell of the dominating white race had seized upon her fine mind and heart. In April, 1614, she formally espoused the Christian faith and was married to the English officer, John Rolfe.

Following are the known essential facts about Pocahontas and her descendants.

The Princess Pocahontas was daughter of Powhatan, Werowance (chief mystery man) and ruler of all the Indian tribes of the Potomac region.

Pocahontas (born about 1555) is supposed to have been nineteen years old when, in 1614, she married John Rolfe, first secretary of the Colony of Virginia. She died in England in 1617, leaving one child, a son named Thomas.

Thomas Rolfe married Jane Poythress, the issue being one child, a daughter named Jane.

Jane Rolfe married, in 1675, Robert Bolling, the first of his name in Virginia, who had come to the Colony as a boy of fourteen. He was twenty-nine years old at the time of his marriage. He was a son of John and Mary Bolling, of Tower street, London.

Jane (Rolfe) Bolling died within a year after her marriage, leaving one child, a son named John.

John Bolling lived and died at Cobbs, on the Appomattox, below Petersburg. He left one son and five daughters.

This son's great grandson, Archibald Bolling, was the father of William Holcomb Bolling.

Mrs. Galt, the President's fiancée, is a daughter of William Holcomb Bolling.

The new discoveries about Pocahontas above referred to will be seen to bear out in quite a marvellous manner the existing records of her death and burial in England—the completion of the tragedy of her life which has all the inevitableness of the tragic plays of the old Greek dramatists.

Two years after her marriage to John Rolfe Pocahontas went to England with her husband. Her beauty, her intelligence and her great personal charm gave her instant social success in aristocratic English circles. She was presented at the Court of St. James by Lord and Lady Delaware, and the Bishop of London gave a great reception in her honor. Not only was she a distinguished princess, but she was the first native American Indian to be baptized a Christian and brought into the fold of the English Church. She became the idol of English aristocratic social life, in fact was treated in every way like a princess royal.

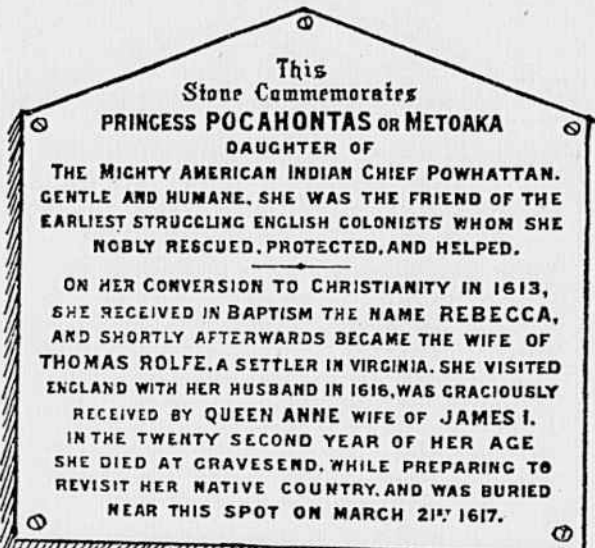
Captain John Smith was a distinguished hero of the English colony of Virginia. He was also basking in the favors of aristocratic English society—which undoubtedly was somewhat disappointed that he had not proved equal to the demands of established romance and married the heroine who had saved his life.

The emotions of Pocahontas upon suddenly meeting Captain Smith can readily be imagined. Being a princess, all the social distinctions showered upon her had not in the least turned her head. Of a barbarous race, her natural emotions had not been sapped away by the hollow conventionalities of civilized social life.

Was the shock of again meeting the man whom she had so perfectly loved the beginning of the tragic end? At any rate we know that in 1617, little more than a year after her arrival in England, Pocahontas's life ended in a most lamentable manner.

Old accounts agree that she went into a sudden decline, and so longed for the scenes of her girlhood that her husband started with her back to Virginia. They got as far as the sailing port of Gravesend, where Pocahontas was stricken with that then most dreaded of diseases, smallpox, which was epidemic at the time. She lived only a few days. A tablet placed in St. George's Church, at Gravesend, perpetuated the leading facts of her life and burial—in the inscription reproduced on this page.

The body of Pocahontas was supposed to have been interred in the chancel of the church. But now we have excellent reasons for believing that the circumstances of her actual burial were in keeping with the lamentable tragedy of her life. The disease of smallpox was then so virulent and so dreaded that its victims were put under ground as hastily as possible and without ceremony. And this custom is borne out by the recent discovery of what archaeologists believe to be the actual bones of the ill-fated princess in an uncared-



Memorial Tablet to Pocahontas in St. George's Church, Gravesend, England.

for spot at some distance from the church in which the tablet to her memory was placed.

Pocahontas was the only Indian woman in England at the time this graveyard was in use. The bones were accompanied by many small relics, such as beads, which might have belonged to an Indian woman.

The workmen who discovered the bones were excavating for the foundation of a new building near the old White Post Inn. A man digging a hole came upon what at first he took to be a curious smooth stone. His pick struck against it and the second blow drove a hole in it. Then he picked the object up and found it was a human skeleton. The earth was carefully removed in the immediate vicinity and the entire skeleton was brought to light. The spot was a few yards to the west of an old path which ran through to the Lennox road, and the body had lain on its face with the feet to the northeast, and close to a very old house.

Mr. Hotter, of the firm of Clements & Hotter, who were in charge of the work, laughed when he was told of the skeleton and remarked jocularly, "Why, here is Pocahontas." Mr. Hotter presented the find. Mr. Tucker, as soon as he had made a casual examination, decided that the skull was that of an Indian, and forthwith he took it to London and called on a famous archaeologist.

"It is the skull of a woman," said this man, "and she was undoubtedly an Indian woman."

Without the least hint of where the skull came from the expert went on to demonstrate the reasons of his belief, and even went so far as to add a very decided opinion that the original owner of the skull in question must have been possessed of rather more than the average share of brain power and character.

Forthwith Mr. Tucker bled him home to Gravesend and quietly went to making further excavations at the spot where the skeleton was unearthed, hoping to find other things that might give some definite clue to the identity of the dead woman. Careful, detailed search within a radius of several feet brought to light various articles, including several nails, some bits of iridescent glass or pearl, a thin tile backed with Roman cement, a small piece of gold wire woven into an ornamental pattern, to which was attached a strand of straight black hair. They are such articles as would probably have been buried with Pocahontas.

All these circumstances point very strongly to the probability that the skeleton is that of Pocahontas herself, despite the doubt cast on its identity by those who claim St. George's chancel as her place of burial.

Canon Gedge, the rector of St. George's thinks it probable that the skeleton is that of the Indian princess, who holds

Captain John Smith as "Admiral of New England."



Pocahontas Saving the Life of Captain John Smith—From the Familiar Old Painting.



Pocahontas From a Portrait Believed to Have Been Painted in Virginia. Old Prints of It Are Inscribed "Pocahontas, First Colonial Dame of America."

such a high place in the history of Virginia.

The spot where the skeleton was found is right on a line between St. George's and St. Mary's churchyards. That she was lying face downwards was only another link in the chain of evidence, for those who deposited her body under the sod would have made great haste, and might even have tumbled her into the grave without regard to decorum, anxious only to get away from danger of contagion from the disease of which she had died. The shallowness of the grave is explained by the fact that it is almost on a line of a path that has been



Pocahontas and Her Little Son, Thomas Rolfe, From the Portrait Discovered at King's Lynn, Norfolk, England.

in use from time immemorial, and that the earth has probably been washed away during the centuries which have elapsed since the interment.

That the skeleton should be in such a good state of preservation is due to the chalky soil, the gravel bed above the solid chalk being only a few feet thick, in fact just exactly the sort of formation in which the bones of many Roman soldiers have been found well preserved in a neighboring part of England.

Unhappy Princess Pocahontas! For years after her death the power of her father, the great Chief Powhatan, was still undiminished. But for the spell of the white man, she might have fulfilled the career of a princess so beautiful and gifted. Perhaps she might have influenced a lasting peace between her native nation and the white colonists. Her fine qualities of mind and heart justify that assumption.

Instead she failed of a woman's greatest desire, died miserably when hardly past the period of girlhood, and suffered a form of burial that was virtually an indignity.

What the Stars Foretell for November

THE November lunation forms a triangle with Jupiter and Saturn, the latter elevated at the important angle of the figure, and the luminaries afflicted by Mars.

Disorder ramifies through various channels of the body politic, and widespread dissensions pervade both national and local issues, with a reactionary spirit in election results. In New York the new Constitution fails of endorsement in many of its essential features, and the woman suffrage question is very probably fated to rejection.

Mars rises with place of the August eclipse in the quarterly chart, preceding the election, and many of the portents there hinted at will be in evidence in the present period. This will be especially noted near the 10th, with Mars square Sun exactly on that point. Proliferous accidents on land and sea, fires and explosions, strikes and casualties in war munition factories, earthquake shocks and destruction through tidal waves are concomitants of this aspect.

An early and severe Winter may be expected, Eastern and coast regions will experience disagreeable phenomena between the 5th and 10th, beginning with electric sharpness and ending with east winds and a severe cold snap. Northwest winds and a clear atmosphere will mark the 11th and 12th. The third week brings a higher temperature, a falling barometer and considerable rain. Cold follows on the 22d, with blizzard conditions about the 24th. Rain and sleet may be expected at the close of the month, with earthquakes in various quarters.

Specific incidents predicted by the stars include the following:

November 4—Short-circuiting on electric lines; a serious accident on an elevated railway. A traffic company in difficulties. Serious trouble for war munitions plants. The criminal classes very active.

November 8-9—An important diplomatic transaction effected and the Mexican problem clarified. A new development in the Naval Advisory Board.

November 10—Earthquake shocks in the East. theatre. Money centres benefited at this time, also shipping and foreign interests.

November 23-25—Traffic impeded by weather conditions. Stock market unsettled. Death of an aged financier. Persons born between the 6th and 9th of January, April and July, or between the 9th and 11th of October of any year will have Saturn afflicting their Sun during November. They will be affected by colds, rheumatism and splenic troubles, as well as by tedium in business affairs. The same holds true if born in the Fall of 1850, Winter of 1861, Summer of 1871, first nine months of 1864, Winter of 1866, Fall of 1868, first half of 1869, Fall of 1872, Summers of 1879 or 1886, 1888, or Fall of 1892.

Those born between the 8th and 12th of March, May or November of any year are under the favorable auspices of Jupiter. New opportunities will open for them and they should seek promotion and advancement of interests. The stars hold out like promise if born in Spring of 1848, Summer of 1852, Winters of 1856 or 1860, Winters of 1863 or 1870, Fall of 1875, Winter or Fall of 1887, Summer of 1891, or in 1895.